

Ag Digest

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Highlights

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The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm>

HOG & PIG INVENTORY

There were 1,070,000 hogs and pigs on **Pennsylvania** farms on March 1, 2003. This estimated inventory was 20,000 head fewer than the previous year's inventory, and 10,000 head fewer than the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 950,000 head, decreased 5,000 head since December 2002; while breeding stock inventory, at 120,000 head, also decreased 5,000 head from December 2002 but down 10,000 from March of 2002. The December 2002-February 2003 pig crop totaled 456,000 head, down 10,000 head from March a year earlier and down 21,000 head from December 2002. There were 49,000 sows farrowed during the quarter, down 4,000 head from the previous year. The average litter rate was 9.30 pigs per litter, up from 9.00 in December and 8.80 for March the previous year.

Pennsylvania hog farmers intend to have 52,000 sows farrow during the March-May 2003 period and 51,000 for the June-August quarter,

2,000 less than actually farrowed in March-May and the June-August periods one year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2003, was 58.1 million head. This was 2 percent below March 2002, and 2 percent below December 1, 2002. Breeding inventory, at 5.96 million head, was down 4 percent from both March 1, 2002, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.2 million head, was 2 percent below last year and 3 percent below last quarter.

The December 2002-February 2003 **U.S.** pig crop, at 24.4 million head, was 2 percent less than 2002, and 2 percent more than 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.77 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.81 pigs saved per litter for the December 2002-February 2003 period, compared to 8.74 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.84 million sows farrow during the March-May 2003 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2002, and 1 percent below 2001. Intended farrowings for June-August 2003, at 2.79 million sows, are 3 percent below the same period in 2002 and 2001. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 35 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 31 percent last year.

This issue contains results of the March Agricultural Survey. We wish to thank the many Pennsylvania farmers who helped make these results possible.

HOGS & PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER, MARCH 1, 2002-2003

Item	Pennsylvania			United States		
	2002	2003	2003/02	2002	2003	2003/02
	(000) Head		Percent	(000) Head		Percent
Inventory - March 1:						
All Hogs & Pigs	1,090	1,070	98	59,248	58,107	98
Kept For Breeding	130	120	92	6,236	5,956	96
Market	960	950	99	53,011	52,151	98
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight						
Under 60 Pounds	345	340	99	19,487	19,110	98
60-119 Pounds	255	245	96	12,975	12,655	98
120-179 Pounds	200	180	90	11,172	10,894	98
180 Pounds and Over	160	185	116	9,377	9,492	101
Sows Farrowing:						
December ¹ -February	53	49	92	2,836	2,767	98
March-May	54	² 52	96	2,943	² 2,842	97
June-August	53	² 51	96	2,887	² 2,792	97
Pig Crop:						
December ¹ -February	466	456	98	24,794	24,374	98
	Number					
Pigs Per Litter:						
December ¹ -February	8.80	9.30	106	8.74	8.81	101

¹ December preceding year. ² Intentions.

MARCH FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UNCHANGED FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March is 99, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the February index. Higher prices for tomatoes, onions, oranges, and chicken eggs offset lower prices for cattle, dairy, strawberries, and wheat. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3 year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings for strawberries, tomatoes, dairy, and asparagus offset decreases for cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 7 points (6.6 percent) from March 2002. Lower prices for lettuce, strawberries, potatoes, and celery more than offset higher prices for soybeans, corn, onions, and broilers.

The Food Commodities Index increased 1 point (1.0 percent) above last month to 97, but is 12 points (11.0 percent) below March last year.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, MARCH 2003

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Mar 2002	Feb 2003	Mar 2003 ¹	Mar 2002	Feb 2003	Mar 2003 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn	Bu.	2.36	2.94	2.94	1.94	2.34	2.30
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.81	3.52	3.27
Oats	Bu.	1.68	2.34	2.34	1.99	2.09	1.94
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.17	2.87	2.92
Hay, Dry All	Ton	118.00	140.00	145.00	92.30	91.80	92.80
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	138.00	160.00	168.00	99.60	96.40	96.20
Dry Other	Ton	108.00	129.00	133.00	72.70	79.40	82.30
Apples, Fresh Use ...	Lb.	.140	.226	.226	.220	.246	.226
Potatoes	Cwt.	11.70	11.80	12.20	8.26	6.55	6.87
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	42.60	39.10	38.60	41.50	38.90	39.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	69.10	73.90	71.60	74.10	78.10	76.20
Calves	Cwt.	117.00	115.00	112.00	105.00	97.30	96.40
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	34.90	34.60	35.60	36.30	34.90	35.60
Sows	Cwt.	27.40	21.60	22.60	30.00	23.20	24.20
Eggs ³	Doz.	.580	.520	.590	.515	.466	.518
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	14.40	13.00	-	12.70	11.40	11.00
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	11.30	10.30	-	11.30	10.30	9.90
All	Cwt.	14.40	13.00	12.80	12.70	11.40	11.00
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Insufficient data to establish price.

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, FEBRUARY 28, 2003

Variety	February 28, 2002					February 28, 2003				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York	29	0	692	643	1,364	0	0	674	460	1,134
Stayman	5	14	25	55	99	1	1	15	8	25
Rome	11	58	309	501	879	4	48	202	509	763
Red Delicious ...	65	375	173	49	662	15	267	28	92	402
Golden Delicious	3	134	535	555	1,227	6	83	134	362	585
Jonathan	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	0	0	0
McIntosh	2	2	0	0	4	0	3	2	1	6
Cortland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other ²	80	64	135	237	516	75	41	108	119	343
Total	195	647	1,885	1,713	4,767	101	443	1,163	1,551	3,258

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 28, 2003

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 3,258,000 bushels on February 28, 2003, compared to 4,767,000 bushels on February 28, 2002. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 1,134,000; Rome with 763,000; and Golden Delicious with 585,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 136,805,000 pounds on February 28, 2003, compared to 245,040,000 pounds on February 28, 2002. Pear stocks in cold storage increased from previous year's stocks of 136,000 pounds to 288,000 pounds on February 28, 2003.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Pennsylvania farmers intend to plant more acres of barley, oats, soybeans, and sorghum this spring and harvest more hay in 2003. Corn and tobacco acreage intentions are unchanged from a year ago. Wheat acres planted last fall for harvest this summer are down from a year ago. All wheat, at 175,000 acres, is down 8 percent from last year, but 3 percent above the 2001 planted acres. Expected barley planted acreage is 75,000, up 7 percent from 2002 and 5,000 acres more than were planted in 2001. Expected oats planted acreage is 145,000, up 4 percent from 2002, but 5,000 acres less than two years ago. Expected oats acreage for harvest is 115,000, unchanged from the last 2 years. For row crops, intended plantings of corn for all purposes are 1,450,000 acres, unchanged from last year and 50,000 acres below two years ago. Soybean planted acreage intentions are set at 370,000 acres, 1 percent more than the 365,000 planted last year, but 30,000 less acres than two years ago. Farmers also intend to plant 13,000 acres of sorghum in 2003, which is up 18 percent or 2,000 acres from last year. Intentions are to harvest 1300 acres of Southern Maryland-type tobacco, unchanged from a year ago. Pennsylvania seedleaf type tobacco harvested acreage is expected to be 2,100 acres, also unchanged from last year. Harvest intentions for all hay in 2003 is 1,900,000 acres, up 6 percent or 100,000 acres from last year's harvest.

Farmers in the **United States** intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, virtually unchanged from 2002, but 4 percent above 2001. Expected acreage is up in the eastern Corn Belt as growers are switching back to corn after planting soybeans last year when persistent wet weather in the spring prevented them from seeding corn. However, all states in the Great Plains, except North Dakota, are decreasing their intended corn plantings as continued drought conditions are expected to persist into the 2003 crop year. Soybean producers intend to plant 73.2 million acres in 2003, down 1 percent from last year and, if realized, the lowest planted area since 1998. This is the third consecutive year that soybean acreage has declined in the United States. Growers in most of the Corn Belt and central Great Plains states intend to plant fewer acres in 2003. Expected increases in acreage, offsetting some of the decreases were located in the northern Great Plains, upper Mississippi Valley, Atlantic Coast, and Delta regions. All wheat planted area is expected to total 61.7 million acres in 2003, up 2 percent from 2002. Winter wheat planted area for the 2003 crop is 44.3 million acres, up 6 percent from 2002. Of the total, about 31.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.2 million acres Soft Red Winter, and 4.2 million acres White Winter.

Sorghum plantings are expected to total 9.45 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. Barley producers intend to plant 5.38 million acres in 2003, up 6 percent from last year. Oat acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2003 crop year are expected to total 4.83 million, down 4 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 2.20 million acres for grain, 5 percent more than in 2002. All tobacco growers intend to harvest 417,510 acres in 2003, down 3 percent from both 2002 and 2001. If realized, this would be the lowest harvested acreage since 1874. Hay acreage harvested is expected to be 63.6 million in 2003, down 1 percent from last year's harvest. Harvested acres are expected

to decrease in 17 states with North Dakota having the largest decrease following the drought conditions last year which resulted in more Conservation Reserve Program land and small grain acres harvested for hay.

In the March Agricultural Survey randomly selected farmers across the United States were asked if they intended to plant varieties of corn that, through biotechnology, was resistant to herbicides, insects, or both, and/or soybean varieties that were herbicide resistant. Survey results indicated that on a national level, farmers intend to plant 26 percent of their corn acres to insect resistant varieties, compared to 22 percent a year ago; 9 percent of their corn acres to herbicide resistant varieties, unchanged from a year ago; and 3 percent of their corn acres to stacked gene varieties, compared to 2 percent a year ago. Survey results also showed that on a national level farmers intend to plant 80 percent of their soybean acres to a herbicide resistant variety, compared to 75 percent last year.

Data users are reminded that actual acreages planted may vary from intentions because of the effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in market conditions prior to planting. Data users are also reminded that this report includes intentions to plant for all purposes.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Crop	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	Ind 2003	2003/02
	(000) Acres			Percent
CORN				
Pennsylvania . . .	1,500	1,450	1,450	100
United States . . .	75,752	79,054	79,022	100
ALL WHEAT ¹				
Pennsylvania . . .	170	190	175	92
United States . . .	59,597	60,358	61,697	102
OATS ¹				
Pennsylvania . . .	150	140	145	104
United States . . .	4,403	5,005	4,828	96
BARLEY ¹				
Pennsylvania . . .	70	70	75	107
United States . . .	4,967	5,073	5,379	106
SOYBEANS				
Pennsylvania . . .	400	365	370	101
United States . . .	74,075	73,758	73,182	99
SORGHUM				
Pennsylvania . . .	11	11	13	118
United States . . .	10,252	9,580	9,451	99
DRY ALL HAY ²				
Pennsylvania . . .	1,650	1,800	1,900	106
United States . . .	63,521	64,497	63,552	99
ALL TOBACCO ²				
Pennsylvania . . .	3.1	3.4	3.4	100
United States . . .	432.3	430.3	417.5	97

¹ Includes area planted in preceding fall. ² Area harvested.

MARCH GRAIN STOCKS

Pennsylvania's corn stored in all positions on March 1, 2003 was 27.2 million bushels, down 43 percent from March 1, 2002. On-farm corn stocks amounted to 23.0 million bushels, while off-farm stocks were 4.2 million bushels. Wheat stored off farms totaled 6.4 million bushels. Soybeans stored off farms totaled 2.2 million bushels. Barley stored off farms was 411 thousand bushels. On-farm oat stocks totaled 2.0 million bushels, and off-farm stocks were 450 thousand bushels. Pennsylvania's on-farm stocks of wheat, soybeans and barley are not published separately, but instead are included with an unallocated national total.

Nationally, corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2003 were estimated at 5.13 billion bushels, 11 percent less than on March 1, 2002. On-farm stocks totaled 2.94 billion bushels, down 12 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks were 2.19 billion bushels, down 10 percent from the previous year. All wheat stocks in all positions on March 1, 2003 are estimated at 905 million bushels, down 25 percent from a year ago. Wheat stored on farms was 233 million bushels, while off-farm stocks totaled 672 million bushels, down 23 percent from a year ago.

Soybeans in all storage positions on March 1, 2003 totaled 1.20 billion bushels, down 10 percent from March 1, 2002. On-farm stocks totaled 636 million bushels, down 7 percent from the same period a year ago. Off-farm stocks are placed at 566 million bushels, 13 percent lower than March 1, 2002. Barley stored in all positions on March 1, 2003 totaled 124 million bushels, 13 percent below stocks a year ago. On-farm stocks totaled 36.7 million bushels, 20 percent below a year earlier. Off-farm stocks were 86.8 million bushels, 9 percent below last year.

Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2003, totaled 82.4 million bushels, 12 percent below the stocks on March 1, 2002. Of the total oat stocks on hand, 35.0 million bushels are stored on farms, 13 percent below last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 47.4 million bushels, 11 percent below a year earlier.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Feb 2002	Jan 2003	Feb 2003	Feb 2002	Jan 2003	Feb 2003
Layers	Thous.	23,656	24,921	24,403	337,991	337,900	338,190
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,114	2,339	2,131	1,947	2,169	1,957
Eggs Produced	Million	499	583	520	6,581	7,329	6,617
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	4,094	4,353	3,709	34,326	33,499	29,988
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	11,171	12,471	11,185	702,576	759,773	694,590
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	24,266	25,389	23,833

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during February 2003 totaled 520 million eggs, an increase of 4 percent over the 499 million produced in 2002. The total number of layers averaged 24.4 million during February, compared with 23.7 million one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,131 eggs during the month, compared with 2,114 eggs in February 2002. Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2003 totaled 3.7 million, down 9 percent from the 4.1 million hatched the previous February. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 11.2 million during February 2003, virtually unchanged from the same month last year.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 6.62 billion eggs during February 2003, up 1 percent from a year ago. The total number of layers during February averaged 338 million, slightly higher than the average number of layers during February 2002. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,957 eggs, up slightly from the 1,946 eggs in February 2002. Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during February totaled 30.0 million, down 13 percent from February 2002. Broiler-type hatch totaled 695 million, is down 1 percent from the previous February. There were 23.8 million turkey poults placed in the United States during February 2003, down 2 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

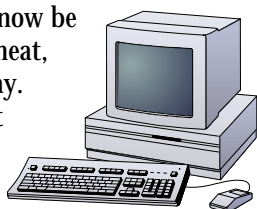
COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, FEB 2003

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod .	Mil. Lbs.	94.0	3,497
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	79.2	2,570
	Mil. Lbs. Live	101.7	3,240
Calves	Thous. Hd.	14.2	83
	Mil. Lbs. Live	5.1	26
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	195.8	7,680
	Mil. Lbs. Live	48.7	2,047
Sheep & Lambs	Thous. Hd.	6.4	224
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.7	30

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during February 2003 totaled 94.0 million pounds, up 1 percent from February 2002. Beef production, at 101.7 million pounds live weight, was up 5 percent from February 2002. Total head slaughtered was 79,200, up 5 percent also; and live weight averaged 1,284 pounds, a decrease of 2 pounds. Veal slaughter was 5.13 million pounds live weight, up 10 percent. Calf slaughter of 14,200 head was 19 percent more than last year. Average live weight decreased 28 pounds to 361 pounds. Pork production was 48.7 million pounds live weight, down 2 percent from 2002. Total head slaughtered was 195,800, a decrease of less than 1 percent from last year. Live weight averaged 249 pounds, 2 pounds lighter than last year. Lamb and mutton slaughter was 696,000 pounds live weight, up 39 percent. The number slaughtered was 6,400 head, up 39 percent also. The average live weight decreased 1 pounds to 108 pounds.

County estimates for 2002 can now be found online for barley, oats, wheat, corn, soybeans, sorghum and hay. Check out NASS's homepage at www.usda.gov/nass/ and click on 'QuickSTATS'



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